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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 16, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KEVIN YODER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They have faced difficult decisions in difficult times, but have labored hard to forge a significant compromise. As has been the testimony of history, difficult losses have been felt while possibilities for a more positive future have been created.

Bless our Nation, O God, that this legislation, as difficult as it has been to work out, will prove to be beneficial for us, and that our fellow citizens might know that all of us are responsible for creating a stronger community as a Nation.

Bless all who have labored so hard in these past days and weeks and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CLEAN WATER IS A PRIORITY

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, for a week now, residents across the Kanawha Valley have been told not to use their tap water for any purpose. Businesses and schools have been closed for over a week. While things are returning to normal for some residents, tens of thousands of residents of West Virginia remain under a do-not-use water order due to a chemical leak from Freedom Industries into the Elk River which is upstream from the public water system, our water system.

For more than two decades, no government agency inspected this facility. Precious response time was lost because Freedom Industries did not immediately report the spill, and responders did not have sufficient information about the chemical.

We must examine our existing laws at all levels of government—local, State, and Federal—and find the gaps that allowed this spill to occur.

At my request, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing in Charleston to examine the causes of the spill, the response, and the actions that should be taken.

I want to thank the West Virginia National Guard, the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, first responders, and many, many West Virginians and volunteers across the State, along with our neighbors from neighboring States. But West Virginians were just amazing. We joined together to meet this challenge and have exemplified once again that Mountaineer spirit which we are very well known for.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, the evidence for climate change is overwhelming, be it superstorms, megadroughts, migration of biological systems, the disappearance of historic glaciers, ocean acidification, or the melting of the polar ice cap. The potential for catastrophic change grows every year.

Unfortunately, House Republicans continue to push legislation that exacerbates climate change. Last year, Republicans reduced funding for the clean energy technologies, interfered with R&D at the Department of Energy, and prevented the EPA from addressing carbon emissions.

Our economy is expected to grow this year; and with that growth, carbon emissions will rise. The United States is a leader in technology and innovation. We should use this leadership as

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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an opportunity to foster cooperation between public and private interests, to work together to provide low-cost, clean energy. Instead, it has been used by the House Republicans to bludgeon the EPA and to roll back the environmental gains of the past half century.

SUPPORTING COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, last week Hadi Partovi, co-founder of Code.org, testified in the Science Committee that by 2020 there will be 100,000 more computer science jobs in America than American students to fill them, and that women and minorities are under-represented in these growing fields.

I have got 24,002 reasons to care about this: there are 24,000 open computing jobs in my State right now, and I have two little girls who will be entering into a workforce that will rely on skills in computing.

Right now, only 17 States accept computer science as a core math or science credit. That is why I support the Computer Science Education Act to fix this. According to an article in Education Week, in this last year in 11 States, not a single African American student took the AP computer science course; not a single Latino student in eight States, not a single female student in two States.

If we are going to compete and ensure all students can make it in America, we have got to close the participation gap and provide these opportunities in every State. We have got to step it up.

COMMEMORATING RICHMOND HEIGHTS' 65TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 65th anniversary of Richmond Heights, a community that from its very beginning fostered inclusion and respect.

I recently had the opportunity to read a great book, "Miami's Richmond Heights," which was written by Patricia Harper Garrett and her daughter, Jessica Garrett Modkins, good friends of mine. It chronicles the story of a community that was set up by Captain Frank Martin, a White Pan Am pilot, who bought the land in 1949, knowing that a lot of World War II veterans, African American World War II veterans, would be returning armed with the GI Bill, but unable to purchase homes. He created this community based on racial equality and inclusion. It is one of the great communities of my district.

The African American leadership that it inspired—folks like Canon Theodore Gibson, Reverend John A. Ferguson, who created the Second Baptist Church, and Senator Larcenia

Bullard—that leadership has been passed on to others in Richmond Heights where today we have Senator Dwight Bullard and Reverend Alphonso Jackson.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I commemorate the 65th anniversary of Richmond Heights and Patricia Garrett's terrific book.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. BARBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, on December 28, 1.3 million Americans lost their unemployment insurance because Congress failed to act. These families are struggling to put food on the table, to pay their bills, to heat their homes; and we have a responsibility to assist them in their time of need and as they continue to look for work.

But instead, Congress will go home today without taking action, and this is just outrageous. Every week that Congress ignores its responsibilities to our citizens, 72,000 more Americans lose their unemployment insurance, crucial assistance which not only supports them, but also our economy.

That is why I call on leadership to keep the House in session and to extend unemployment insurance now. We should stay here and do our job, for we are representing the people of America and those who we have a duty to serve. Let us stay here and make sure that Americans know that we have their back, that we are going to take care of them in their desperate time of need. I urge the House to stay in session and pass an extension to the unemployment insurance program.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have learned a lot in my first year in Congress, but I could serve here a lifetime and never understand how some Members could be so callous and so shortsighted that they are ready to cut off a lifeline for millions of Americans, including 137,000 New Yorkers.

These New Yorkers are hardworking people, like Stephen from Sugar Loaf, who wrote to me because he needs unemployment insurance to stay in his house; like Brenda in Fishkill, where she and her husband are both enrolled in retraining courses right now trying to get work and need this insurance just to make ends meet; like Johnine in Warwick, who lost her job to outsourcing, but still has to take care of her daughter; like Carol in Dutchess County, who may not be able to take care of her disabled husband without this assistance; like Ingrid from Highland Falls, who fought for her country in war and now has to worry about putting food on the table for her children.

We must renew unemployment insurance for people like these now because every week that goes by, there are 5,000 more people like Stephen and Brenda and Johnine and Carol and Ingrid. These aren't statistics. They are hard-working Americans, and they need this Congress to act, and act now.

HONORING CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER STOVER

(Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER asked and was given permission to address the House.)

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Captain Christopher Stover of Vancouver who was tragically killed last week in a military training accident near Salthouse, England. A 4.0 student at Evergreen High School, Captain Stover chose to serve his country and attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Captain Stover was a pilot of the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter and served tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. According to his family and friends, Chris had a passion for flying and he loved his job. A high school teacher said he was caring and nurturing and was known for fostering a strong sense of community. Not long ago, he visited an elementary school in Vancouver to thank a group of children who had sent him cards while he was overseas, and to tell them about his passion for flying.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah, and his parents, Maribel and Richard. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We can never replace what you have lost, but on behalf of a grateful Nation, we thank you; and we will always remember his service.

There is an Air Force Academy tradition for those graduates who pass away. It comes from the third verse of the Air Force song. I will carry on that tradition by saying:

Captain Stover, here's a toast.

EXCHANGE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3362.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 455, I call up the bill (H.R. 3362) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require transparency in the operation of American Health Benefit Exchanges, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the amendment printed in part B of House